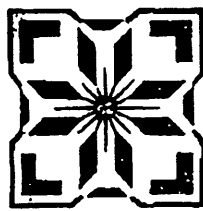


EXHIBIT A



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

Via Email

June 7, 2018

Honorable Michelle I. Schauer
Judge of the Westchester County Family Court
c/o Court Attorney Michelle D'Ambrosio
c/o Nicole Marcano
131 Warburton Avenue, 3rd Floor
Yonkers, New York 10701
mdambros@nycourts.gov
nmarcano@nycourts.gov

RE: Jennifer Solomon v. Marc Fishman, Docket Nos. V-081887/8/9-14/15B

Dear Judge Schauer:

Disability Rights New York ("DRNY") is the Protection and Advocacy agency for New York State. Protection and Advocacy agencies are authorized by federal law to provide legal representation and other advocacy services to people with disabilities. We provide information and referrals, as well as training and technical assistance to service providers, state legislators and other policymakers.

DRNY was contacted by Marc Fishman in January 2018 regarding the lack of free transcription services available to him in the aforementioned proceedings. Your Honor informed Mr. Fishman repeatedly that the transcription services he was requesting were not available in the Westchester County Family Court courthouse located in Yonkers, NY.

However, according to multiple news sources and the New York State Unified Court System 2017 Annual Report, Yonkers Family Court has had advanced audiovisual technology in its courtrooms, including instant voice-to-text translations, since 2016. See New York State Unified Court System 2017 Annual Report, http://www.nycourts.gov/reports/annual/pdfs/2017_UCS-

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Annual Report.pdf 5 (2017) ; *see also* State of New York Unified Court System, "Press Release: High-Tech Courtroom Opens in Westchester County Supreme Court," http://www.courts.state.ny.us/PRESS/PDFs/PR17_19.pdf (Dec. 13, 2017); National Center for State Courts, "New York State Courts Announce High Tech Courtrooms," Court Technology Bulletin, <https://courttechbulletin.blogspot.com/2017/12/new-york-state-courts-announce-high.html> (Dec. 20, 2017).

The Yonkers courtrooms have instant voice-to-text services and Family Court could either electronic or paper copies of transcripts generated by those services at minimal if any cost. The provision of free transcripts therefore constitutes a reasonable modification of the kind required by the ADA to avoid disability discrimination. *See* 42 U.S.C. §§ 12131(1), 12132; 28 C.F.R. § 35.130(b)(7).

Disability Rights New York therefore respectfully requests that Your Honor implement usage of the voice-to-text translation technology for all Mr. Fishman's future appearances, and provide Mr. Fishman with electronic or paper transcripts generated by those services free of cost.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns. You can reach me at (518) 512-4952 or at sara.liss@dny.org.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Sara Liss

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